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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,958	08/09/2001	Thomas F. Wenisch	18133-090	4143
30623	7590	07/01/2005	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C. ONE FINANCIAL CENTER BOSTON, MA 02111			SMITHERS, MATTHEW	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2137	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/925,958	WENISCH ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew B. Smithers	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 6-14,20-27 and 31-34 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,4,5,15,18,19 and 28-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2,3,16 and 17 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5, 18, 19, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Each of the above named claims recite the limitation "the session identification", however, none of the claims in which they depend from establish a session identification. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 4, 15, 18, 28 and 29 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,766,454 granted to Riggins.

Regarding claim 1, Riggins meets the claimed limitations as follows:
"A method for authenticating a user of a computer, the method comprising:

transmitting a signal having a challenge string and a first encryption key;
receiving a login packet having the challenge string and a password that is encrypted using the first encryption key;
decrypting the password;
receiving information from an authentication provider; and authenticating the password by using the information received from the authentication provider." see column 10, line 62 to column 11, line 21; column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 7 (Figure 3, element 395); column 13, line 59 to column 14, line 43 and Figure 14.

Regarding claim 4, Riggins meets the claimed limitations as follows:
"The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a login packet comprises receiving from a computer a login packet having a challenge string, a user name, a password, wherein the challenge string, the user name, and the password are encrypted using the first encryption key." see column 10, line 62 to column 11, line 21; column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 7 (Figure 3, element 395); column 13, line 59 to column 14, line 43 and Figure 14.

Claims 15 and 18 are system claims that are substantially equivalent to method claims 1 and 4. Therefore, claims 15 and 18 are rejected by a similar rationale.

Claims 28 and 29 are article of manufacture claims that are substantially equivalent to method claims 1 and 4. Therefore, claims 28 and 29 are rejected by a similar rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-14, 20-27, and 31-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a system for authenticating a user using information received from an authentication provider. Claims 6, 20 and 31 each recite the uniquely distinct features of receiving from the computer a login packet having the session identification, a user name, a password and a first hash of the session identification, the user name, and the password, wherein the session identification, the user name, and the password are encrypted using the first encryption key; decrypting the session identification, the user's name and the password contained; and authenticating the user's name and the password by using information provided by the authentication provider.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 2-3, and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A. McGarvey (US 2003/0005286) discloses a method and system for authenticating a message from a client using authentication protocols.
- B. Pu et al. (US2003/0105966) discloses an authentication server for verifying a user's identity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew B. Smithers whose telephone number is (571) 272-3876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew T. Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Matthew B Smithers
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2137